

GAINS HIGH U. S. CIVILIAN AWARD

Employee of Arsenal Cited for Work

One of the highest awards possible for a government civilian employee to receive for participation in the war program—the Emblem of Exceptional Civilian Service—was bestowed upon Edward J. Cottrell recently at special ceremonies in the Office of



E. J. COTTRELL

the Field Director of Ammunition plants, Joliet arsenal.

This award was made to Mr. Cottrell in recognition of outstanding service to the ordnance department from April 28, 1941, to May 15, 1946. During this time, while serving as ordnance engineer with the office of the chief of ordnance, Mr. Cottrell "demonstrated keen foresight and outstanding ability in the initiation, development and application of the x-ray inspection of high explosive shells and bombs," his citation reads. This work is of a highly technical nature, it was explained.

THE CITATION continues: "While serving as special assistant to the field director, and as chief of the inspection service, he distinguished himself in his administrative and technical competence in organizing and directing the activities of the Ammunition Renovation field office, and by his recommendations improved renovation operations and inspection practices."

Mr. Cottrell and his wife, Harriet, have resided at the Joliet arsenal reservation since last December when the OFDAP was moved here from St. Louis, Mo. Prior to that time he was working with the OFDAP in Washington, D. C., and St. Louis.

At present, the Cottrell family is somewhat scattered. A son, E. J. Cottrell, Jr., 29, married and father of one daughter, is now in Washington, D. C., with the department of public relations, and a daughter, Mrs. J. F. Purnell, 26, married and the mother of one daughter, is re-

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siding in Durham, N. C. However, this has not been the greatest separation by any means experienced for, after the outbreak of World War II Mrs. Purnell and her husband were interned by the Japanese in the Philippine island for 38 months. Mr. Purnell was employed by the government in the Philippines when the Japs invaded.

MR. COTTRELL was born in Fall Branch, Tenn., May 8, 1894. He attended Fall Branch High school and the University of Tennessee. He entered civilian government service with the ordnance department June 24, 1914 and has been associated with this branch without interruption for the past 31 years, both in domestic and foreign service. On April 28, 1941, Mr. Cottrell was assigned to the inspection branch of the OFDAP, and on June 28, this year, was made chief of the section.

Mr. Cottrell's award was presented by Col. R. R. Klanderman, former field director of ammunition plants who left Sunday for Washington, D. C., for new duties. In concluding the ceremony, Col. Klanderman remarked that it was a great pleasure to have the privilege to present Mr. Cottrell the Exceptional Civilian Service medal, in recognition of his services performed during the war years.

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